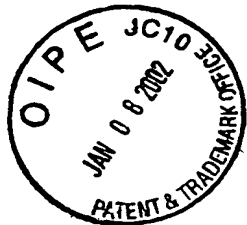


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| In re the Application of |) | Examiner: T. Prasthofer |
| Alfredo Nicosia et al. |) | Group Art Unit: 1627 |
| Serial No.: 09/463,098 |) | Response to paper No.: 14 |
| Filed: May 15, 2000 |) | |
| For: "Mimotopes of |) | |
| Hypervariable Region 1 |) | |
| of the E2 Glycoprotein |) | |
| of HCV and Uses Thereof" |) | |



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SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In response to the August 27, 2001 Office Communication,
please amend the above-identified patent application as
follows:

In the Specification:

In accordance with a telephone conference with Examiner
Prasthofer on October 24, 2001, Applicants are hereby
submitting a substitute specification. A marked-up copy of
the original specification showing where sequence identifiers
(SEQ ID NOS) were inserted into the application is also
attached hereto.